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MIR) 1 2 20E

Attorney Docket No.: 33683AJT

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Signed: Leslie Hoffmann

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Examiner:

Date:

To be assigned

HUANG, et al.

Art Unite No.

Serial No.

10/817,381

3736

Filed:

April 1, 2004

Confirmation No. 2603

August 6, 2004

For: Capacitive Ultrasonic Transducers

WITH ISOLATION POST

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment should be considered before examination of the referenced application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3, of application as follows:

--The electric field between the electrodes can attract and trap charges 17 either on the surface of or in the [insulating] <u>isolation</u> layer 14. The charges stay in the trapping cites for a long period because there is no DC path to discharge them. The accumulated charge shifts the DC voltage between the two electrodes away from the applied voltage by a random value. This dramatically degrades the reliability and repeatability of device performance.--

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, of application as follows:

--Referring now to Figure 4 which illustrates a single cell of a cMUT with a silicon membrane 36 the design and location of the posts <u>37</u> is described. The device includes two sets of posts. The location and height of the posts is determined by simulating the membrane deflection under electrostatic force. This is illustrated for the circular cell of Figure 4. It is